Case 1:07-cv-06384-GBD Document 1

JUDGE DANIELS

338-07/GMV/PLS FREEHILL HOGAN & MAHAR, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff 80 Pine Street New York, NY 10005 (212) 425-1900 (212) 425-1901 fax

Gina M. Venezia (GV 1551) Pamela L. Schultz (PS 0335)

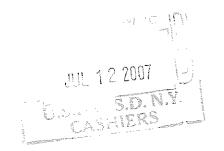
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

EGYPTIAN NAVIGATION CO.,

07 CV 6384

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Filed 07/12/2007



VERIFIED COMPLAINT

Plaintiff

-against -

WAKALEX IMPORT & EXPORT CO. a/k/a WAKALEX IMP/EXP CO. a/k/a WAKALEX IMPORT and EXPORT CO.,

Defendant.	
	,

Plaintiff EGYPTIAN NAVIGATION CO. ("ENC") by its attorneys Freehill Hogan & Mahar, LLP, as and for its Verified Complaint against Defendant WAKALEX IMPORT & EXPORT CO. a/k/a WAKALEX IMP/EXP CO. a/k/a WAKALEX IMPORT and EXPORT CO. ("WAKALEX"), alleges upon information and belief as follows:

1. This is an admiralty and maritime claim within the meaning of Rule 9(h) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure in that it involves a claim for the breach of a maritime contract by Defendant WAKALEX. The case also falls within the Court's admiralty and maritime jurisdiction pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1333. Jurisdiction is also proper pursuant to the Court's federal question jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C. §1331. Federal jurisdiction also exists because the

action arises under the New York Convention on the Recognition and Enforcement of Foreign Arbitral Awards at 9 U.S.C. §201 et seq. and/or the Federal Arbitration Act, 9 U.S.C. §1 et seq.

- 2. At all times relevant hereto, Plaintiff ENC was and still is a foreign business entity duly organized and existing under the laws of a foreign country with an address at 2, Elnasr St., Elgomrok, Alexandria, Egypt.
- 3. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant WAKALEX was and still is a foreign business entity duly organized and existing under the laws of a foreign country with an address at KM 10, Alexandria-Cairo Agricultural Road, P.O. Box 23, Abbis, Alexandria, Egypt.
- 4. On or about May 17, 2007, Plaintiff ENC, as owner, and WAKALEX, as charterer, entered into a maritime contract of charter party for the carriage of a 5,400 metric tons of bulk sugar beet pellets from Damietta, Egypt to Jort Lasfer, Morocco onboard the M/V ALEXANDRIA (hereinafter "charter party"). A true and correct copy of the charter party is attached as Exhibit A.
- The bills of lading for the cargo identified Defendant Wakalex as the shipper of the cargo, Banque Populaire Casablanca as the consignee and Dynacome SARL ("Dynacome") as the notify party.
- 6. After loading at Damietta, Egypt, the vessel proceeded to the discharge port of Jort Lasfer, Morocco.
- 7. Under the terms of the charter party, Wakalex bore responsibility for the loading, stowage and discharge of the cargo.
- 8. At Jort Lasfer, Dynacome lodged a claim before the Moroccan Court for an alleged shortage of 200 tons of sugar beet pellets, (a claim for which Wakalex is liable under the charter) which led to the arrest of the vessel.

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- 9. ENC was forced to provide security in the amount of \$37,000 and €6,000 to Dynacome to secure the release of the vessel.
- 10. ENC has suffered losses and/or is exposed to damages and expenses, all of which are the responsibility of Wakalex, consisting of the following: (i) posting of a bank guarantee of \$37,000 and €6,000 to obtain the release of the vessel from arrest and as security for expenses, (ii) delay of the vessel as a result of its arrest for a period of three days and loss of freight in the amount of \$31,5000; (iii) costs and fees to obtain the release of the vessel in the amount of \$10,000; and (iv) costs and fees in connection with the London arbitration and these proceedings.
- 11. This action is brought to obtain jurisdiction over Wakalex and to obtain security in favor of ENC in respect of its claims against Wakalex and in aid of the London arbitration proceedings.
- 12. This action is further brought to obtain security for any additional sums to cover ENC's anticipated attorney fees and costs in the arbitration and interest, all of which are recoverable as part of ENC's claim against Wakalex under English law.
- 13. Under English law, including but not limited to Section 63 of the English Arbitration Act of 1996, costs including attorney fees, arbitrators' fees, disbursements and interest are recoverable as part of ENC's claim.
- 14. The charter party contains clauses calling for the application of English Law with London Arbitration, and ENC specifically reserves its rights to arbitrate the substantive matters of the dispute.
 - 15. Plaintiff ENC has fulfilled all obligations required of it under the charter party.
- 16. Plaintiff estimates, as nearly as can be computed, that the legal expenses and costs of prosecuting the London arbitration will be \$30,000 and interest on its damages in the London

NYDOCS1/286615.1 3 proceedings are estimated to be \$10,965.98 (calculated at the rate of 6% for a period of two years, the estimated time for completion of the arbitration in London).

17. Upon information and belief, and after investigation, Defendant WAKALEX cannot be "found" within this District for the purpose of Rule B of the Supplemental Rules of Certain Admiralty and Maritime Claims, but Plaintiff is informed that Defendant has, or will shortly have, assets within this District comprising, *inter alia*, cash, funds, escrow funds, credits, debts, wire transfers, electronic funds transfers, accounts, letters of credit, freights, sub-freights, charter hire and/or sub-charter hire, of, belonging to, due or for the benefit of Defendant WAKALEX (collectively hereinafter, "ASSETS"), including but not limited to ASSETS as may be held, received, or transferred in either of its names or for its benefit at, moving through, or being transferred and/or wired to or from banking institutions or such other garnishees who may be served with a copy of the Process of Attachment issued herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff ENC prays:

- a. That process in due form of law according to the practice of this Court issue against Defendant WAKALEX, citing it to appear and answer the foregoing, failing which a default will be taken against it.
- b. That if Defendant WAKALEX cannot be found within this District pursuant to Supplemental Rule B that all tangible or intangible property of Defendant WAKALEX, up to and including the claim of USD \$127,658.62 be restrained and attached, including, but not limited to any cash, funds, escrow funds, credits, debts, wire transfers, electronic funds transfers, accounts, letters of credit, freights, sub-freights, charter hire and/or sub-charter hire, of, belonging to, due or being transferred from or for the benefit of Defendant WAKALEX, (collectively hereinafter, "ASSETS"), including but not limited to such ASSETS as may be held,

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received, or transferred in either of its names or as may be held, received or transferred for its benefit, at, through, or within the possession, custody or control of such banking institutions and/or any such other garnishees who may be served with a copy of the Process of Maritime Attachment and Garnishment issued herein;

- c. That this Court retain jurisdiction over the matter for any further or supplemental proceedings as may be necessary, including but not limited to the recognition and enforcement of any judgment entered against the Defendant in the London proceedings; and
- d. For such other, further and different relief as this Court may deem just and proper in the premises.

Dated:

New York, New York

July 12, 2007

FREEHILL HOGAN & MAHAR, LLP

Attorneys for Plaintiff

EGYPTIAN NAVIGATION CO.

Gina M. Venezia (GV 1551)

Pamela L. Schultz (PS 0335)

80 Pine Street

New York, NY 10005

(212) 425-1900

(212) 425-1901 fax

ATTORNEY VERIFICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK) ss.: COUNTY OF NEW YORK)

PAMELA L. SCHULTZ, being duly sworn, deposes and says as follows:

- I am an associate with the law firm of Freehill Hogan & Mahar, LLP, attorneys 1. for Plaintiff in this action, I have read the foregoing Verified Complaint and know the contents thereof, and the same is true to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.
- The sources of my information and the grounds for my belief are 2. communications, information and documentation provided by our client.
- The reason this verification is made by an attorney and not by the Plaintiff is 3. because the Plaintiff is a foreign entity, none of whose officers are presently within this Judicial District.

Sworn to before me this 12 day of July, 2007.

Lisa M. Morales Notary Public, State of New York Qualified in the Bronx Commission Expires Feb. 26, 2011

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Signature (Owners) Signature (Charterers) Pointed by BIMCO The Charter Party Editor To A

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Law and Arbitration

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tille Del tile United States Good and the Maritime Law of the United States and should any probable arise out of this Cruster Party, the mailer is dispute Maries released to three persons at Mew York, one to be appointed by seat of the person and the third by the two so chosen their sociation question and the of them shall be Brast, and for purpose of encounts of ward, this agreement may be made a rule of the Goutt. The proceedings that he conducted in accordance with the rules of the Booter or Marillians Arbitrators,

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with the Shortened Arbit spool Processor and the state of the state of the place in the state of the state of

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M/V " ALEXANDRIA " RIDER TO THE CHARTER PARTY DATED 17th MAY 2007

CLAUSE 20:

Vessel MV ALEXANDRIA - Egyptian flag -sid - built 1991 - grt/nrt/dwt: 9533/6623/12800 mtons - Loa / breadth / draft: 132.90/20.50/9.46 mtr. -

grain/bale: 20805/19390 cbm - ho/ha: 4/4 - cranes: $2 \times 10 + 2 \times 20 + 1 \times 10$ t.

Class: Lloyds Register of Shipping (LR)

P&I club: The American Club - NEW YORK, USA.

All details about .

- -Present cargo: steel
- -Owners guarantee that :

Vessel is steelfloored

All ship's gears are in good working order and can be used at discharging port Vessel is suitable for grab discharge

Vessel is eligible for this trade

Vessel shall remain covered with same P&I club and hull underwriters during The performance of this voyage.

Vessel is ISM fitted and ISM regulations compliant

CLAUSE 21:

Freight USD 33,00 per metric ton free in and out , stowed and trimed Payable 100pct less commission (3,75%) to owners nominated bank by swift Transfer within Time working banking days from signing and releasing BS/L marked "FREIGHT PAYABLE AS PER C/P". Any how before breaking bulk . Freight deemed earned on signing bills of lading discountless, nonreturnable, vessel and or cargo lost or not lost . For "CLEAN ON BOARD" Bills of lading, Master has the right to reject any cargo which could be damaged and Charterers/Shippers to replace same with sound cargo. Other wise any remarks to be inserted in the mates receipt & the Bills of Lading to issued in strict conformity in the mates receipt.

CLAUSE 22:

Loading and discharging ports:

Loading port: 1 GSPB DAMIETTA, EGYPT AAAA

Discharging port: 1 GSPB JORF LASFAR - MOROCCO AAAA

CLAUSE 23:

Cargo to be loaded and discharged at the rate of total 7 weather working days of 24 consecutive hours. At loading port Fridays and holidays to be excluded even if used

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CLAUSE 28:

Owners agents at loading port

And Charterers agents at discharging port: 'COMPAGNIE: AGEMAFRIC -

JORF LASFAR, for attn. Mr. Tazi Samir

TEL: +212 22 317 258 / 317 336

FAX: +212 22 310 774 GSTL:+212 61 325998

E-MAIL: gemafric@iam.net.ma

CLAUSE 29:

Over time, if any, at loading and discharging ports to be for account of the party ordering same, but Crew's and Officer's overtime to be always for Owners account. Overtime, if any, ordered by port Authorities to be always for Shippers/Receivers/Charterers account.

CLAUSE 30:

Vessel to provide sufficient light for night work if required in and/or on deck.

CLAUSE 31:

Cargo to be loaded stowed and trimed/ under deck only and as required by Master, however cargo not to be loaded into compartments obstructed by stanchions, posts or other obstructive and while are not easily accessible to derricks/forklifts/trucks. Charterers/Shippers have the right to use forklifts trucks in vessel's holds for loading and discharging the cargo up to vessel's permissible tank top strength.

CLAUSE 32:

Stevedores although appointed and paid by shippers / receivers shall work under Master's direction and supervision. Any stevedores damages to be reported by Master immediately or by latest within 24 hours on occurrence/discovery to stevedores/agents and to shippers/receivers and also to charterers. In case owners unable to obtain any settlement form party causing damage, after having used all due diligence, the charterers to use all their influence on such party for correct settlement.

CLAUSE 33:

Upon giving definite written notice of readiness, vessel's holds to be clean, dry and swept, free of smell, insects, odor, rust or residues of previous cargoes and fit to load the cargo up to independent surveyor satisfaction. Independent surveyop to be appointed and paid by the Charterers. Otherwise failing of holds inspection time not to count from time vessel's holds rejected by said surveyor till reacceptance by said surveyor.

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CLAUSE 34:

Charterers are fully responsible for the type, quality, condition of the cargo. Any claim regarding type, quality, condition of the cargo, Charterers must cover the Owners immediately for such claim.

Any craft paper and/or nylon sheets or wood required for loading and stowed the cargo to be for Charterers account.

CLAUSE 35:

Opening and closing hatches in loading and discharging ports to be effected by the crew, if same not permitted by local regulation authorities, same to be for Charterers account. The Master shall close or cover the hatches when weather is wet or threatening unless other wise ordered by Charterers, as well as after finishing loading/discharging, every day, and also to open same prior to resumption of loading or discharging operations.

CLAUSE 36:

Any taxes/dues/charges/warfage/dockage on or assessed against vessel/freight/flag/ownership/crew to be for Owners account and same on or assessed against cargo to be for Charterers account.

CLAUSE 37:

Vessel is free of extra insurance due to vessel's age and same to be for Charterers account.

CLAUSE 38:

Dispute arising between owners and charterers shall be referred to three persons in London. One to be appointed by each of the parties hereto and the third by the two so chosen. Their decision or that of any two of them shall be final and for purpose of enforcing any award. This agreement may be a rule of the court. Arbitration in London and English law to apply.

CLAUSE 39:

Owners guarantee that the vessel's hatch cover are in good condition and watertight and vessel's holds are suitable for grap discharge.